

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Inquiry : 30 January 2018

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

Parliamentary Inquiry - Migration Amendment (Skilling Australians Fund) Bill 2017 and Migration (Skilling Australians Fund) Charges Bill 2017 [provisions] – SSCEE/001 - Consultation with ACCI:

Asked:

Senator CAMERON: But ACCI, for instance, today expressed concern. They've not raised that concern with you?

Mr Wilden: I can't speak to it. We will take on notice if they have made specific representations, noting, of course, that ACCI was a member of the team that did the Azarias review, which recommended a model such as this.

Senator CAMERON: So, following the review a recommendation was made. What consultation took place with industry after the review and leading up to the announcement?

Mr Wilden: I just said that there was not a broad-based consultation—so that was on the record. I said I would go back and check whether or not individual conversations or discussions occurred on the particulars of this initiative.

CHAIR: On that question on notice, could you take the issue on notice, because there was some degree of confusion in answers as well about whether they were talking about consultation on the bill itself, the fund or the actual amount that was in the last budget figures?

Then, when we asked for clarification, we were told, 'Yes, we had consultation on that but not on the amount before the budget'—because, obviously, governments traditionally don't that. So could you just be very clear about that consultation, because it was a little conflated in other evidence this morning?

Mr Wilden: We will look at it from the Home Affairs side, and I will leave it to my colleagues on their side. We will come back with those particular lenses about what was consulted on and when.

Answer:

- The Training Fund Contribution (now referred to as the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy) was recommended by the 457 Integrity Review in 2014 and the Temporary Work Visa Senate Inquiry, and was developed in response to concerns about the current training benchmark requirement that applies to employers nominating workers under the 457 visa and Direct Entry stream of the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) (subclass 186) visa.
- As part of the 457 Integrity Review, the independent panel consulted with over 140 stakeholders, including unions, employer groups, industry associations, employers and academics, and received 189 written submissions.

- The independent panel released the 457 Integrity Review on 10 September 2014.
- The Government provided its response to the 457 Integrity Review on 18 March 2015.
- In August 2015, the then-Department of Immigration and Border Protection circulated a discussion paper on the Training Fund Contribution for comment on the proposed model to key stakeholders from unions, employers groups, industry associations, employers and state and federal government agencies.
 - 32 submissions were received in response to the discussion paper, including a submission from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).